

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 /082 W

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P R 291100Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3994

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 1156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH, UK

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE AND RHODESIA

1. AFTER ADDRESSING ANGOLAN SITUATION AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, PRESIDENT MACHEL MADE A RATHER MILD AND SOMEWHAT OBSCURE STATEMENT ON RHODESIA: "SMITH IS CONSTANTLY VIOLATING OUR BORDERS. ALMOST WEEKLY WE RECEIVE INJURED FROM ZIMBABWE. OUR HOSPITALS IN MANICA AND TETE ARE OVERFLOWING WITH INJURED FROM ZIMBABWE.... WHAT MUST BE DONE IS TO ACCELERATE THE FALL OF SMITH, BECAUSE SMITH WILL FALL. HE HIMSELF KNOWS THAT HE IS GOING TO FALL. WHAT WE CAN DO IS TO WEAKEN THE ALREADY SHAKY BASE THAT SUPPORTS HIM. WE SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE FOR ZIMBABWE AND WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE".

2. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF REPORTS OVER PAST MONTH OR MORE THAT
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GUERILLA WARFARE AGAINST SMITH REGIME IS ALLEGEDLY TO RESUME

IN FORCE ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 31, MACHEL'S STATEMENT WAS MILD INDEED, AND PERHAPS LEAST WARLIKE HE HAS UTTERED TO DATE. MOZAMBIQUE SEEMS TO BE INTERPRETING ITS "INTERNATIONALIST" RESPONSIBILITIES RENRHODESIA (SEE CHISSANO'S UNGA SPEECH) AS PERMITTING IT TO CONTRIBUTE PHYSICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY TO ANC EFFORTS (E.G., PROVIDING TRAINING AND SANCTUARY, KEEPING EVERYBODY -- INCLUDING SMITH -- GUESSING ON SANCTIONS) WHILE MAINTAINING COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH RHODESIA NECESSARY TO MOZAMBIQUE'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING. THIS RELATIONSHIP IS UNDERLINED BY CONTINUED UNOFFICIAL " PRESENCE HERE OF ONE CONSUL, TWO TRADE REPRESENTATIVES, AND THREE CUSTOMS OFFICERS, FIRST THREE OF WHOM PERFORM NO VISIBLE FUNCTION AND HAVE NO OPEN OFFICE. HOW LONG THEIR PRESENCE WILL BE TOLERATED MAY NOT BE KNOWN EVEN TO SMITH, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT SOME TACIT UNDERSTANDING MAY EXIST.

3. FCO CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA DEPARTMENT CHIEF MARTIN REID TOLD ME IN LONDON LAST WEEK THAT BRITISH HAVE NO INKLING OF WHAT MOZAMBIQUE INTENDS TO DO ABOUT SANCTIONS. REID SAID CHISSANO HAD INDICATED TO UK MISSION TO UN THAT HE WANTED DISCUSS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MATTERS --POSSIBLY WITH RELATION TO PLAN IMPLEMENTING SANCTIONS -- WITH BRITISH BUT THAT NO ONE WAS AVAILABLE IN LOURENCO MARQUES FOR HIM TO TALK TO. (BRITISH AMBASSADOR LEWEN HAS BEEN COOLING HIS HEELS FOR OVER TWO WEEKS AWAITING REPLY TO HIS REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS). REID SAID IDEA OF MULTI-NATIONAL OFFSET FUND AS ENVISAGED AT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE LAST MAY IS PRETTY MUCH A DEAD ISSUE, BUT THAT SOME BILATERAL ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY UK AND SOME OTHER COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS IF MOZAMBIQUE ACTUALLY MOVED TOWARD SANCTIONS.

4. REID ALSO SAID CHISSANO TOLD UKUN THAT GPRM WOULD NOT MAKE A PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF WHAT IT PLANNED TO DO RE RHODESIA, BUT WOULD SIMPLY ACT FIRST(MANNER UNSPECIFIED) AND ANNOUNCE LATER. NEITHER REID NOR RHODESIA DEPARTMENT HEAD LAVER APPEARED SANGUINE THAT GPRM PLANS ANYTHING DRASTIC ON SANCTIONS ANYTIME SOON.

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